

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. It is proposed to amend claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 14, 15 and 17 to place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the application including claims 1-15 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 16 and 17 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for this determination.

Claim Amendments

Since claim 16 is allowable, in order to expedite allowance of the application, it is proposed to cancel claim 16 and to amend claim 1 to include limitations of claim 16 to put claim 1 into condition for allowance. Claim 17 is amended to correct its dependence from claim 16 to claim 1. Claims 12 and 13 are dependent from claim 1 as well and should be allowable for the same reasons.

Moreover, it is proposed to amend independent claims 2, 5, 8, 14 and 15 to include limitations of claim 16 so as to render claims 2-15 allowable as well. Entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 1-15 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 6,865,410 B2 to Kavet, et al. ("Kavet"). Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent number 6,327,495 to Iwabuchi et al. ("Iwabuchi") in view of Kavet. By this paper, claims 1-2, 5, 8, 14, 15 and 17 have been amended and claim 16 has been cancelled to place claims 1-15 and 17 into condition for allowance. Withdrawal of these prior art rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently amended claims are patentable and thus request allowance of these claims.

If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above amendments and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4288 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

/John G. Rauch/
John G. Rauch
Registration No. 37,218

May 15, 2009
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200